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the case in most colleges, a very small percentage only of the students of science are likely ever to have the opportunity to devote their lives to research. T.

**A Guide in Vegetable Physiology.** — Professor Arthur of Purdue University has issued in pamphlet form an outline for thirty-five laboratory exercises in vegetable physiology,<sup>1</sup> which are intended to guide the student in manipulation while avoiding the provision of information as to the purpose of the experiments or the deductions to be drawn from them.

**Digestion of the Albumen of the Date.** — M. Leclerc du Sablon, in the *Revue Générale de Botanique* for Nov. 15, 1897, publishes a paper on the digestion of the "albumen" of the date, in which it is shown that not only is this albumen incapable of digesting itself, but that the diastases secreted by the cotyledon, which attack the cellulose, do not penetrate into the albumen, their action appearing only in the region of contact between the cotyledon and the albumen, only the enzyme which leads to the production of fatty acid passing from the cotyledon into the albumen, where it begins the digestion of the fatty reserves.

**Experiments with Etiolated Leaves.** — In a paper published in No. 107 of the *Revue Générale de Botanique*, Palladine shows that when etiolated leaves free from carbohydrates are placed on the surface of various solutions, saccharose, raffinose, glucose, fructose, maltose, glycerine, galactose, lactose, and dextrine favor the formation in them of chlorophyll, while inulin and tyrosin produce no effect, and mannite, dulcitol, asparagine, alcohol, and some other substances either retard or completely prevent the formation of the pigment.

**Life History of Ranunculus.** — To the *Botanical Gazette* for February, Prof. John M. Coulter contributes an addition to the life history of *Ranunculus*, embodying the results of the study of a number of research students at the University of Chicago. The results appear to justify the conclusion that while it is comparatively easy to obtain a definite sequence in the development of structures when the facts are few, definite sequences seem to disappear as facts multiply; a conclusion which may be paralleled in nearly or quite all

<sup>1</sup> J. C. Arthur, *Laboratory Exercises in Vegetable Physiology*. Lafayette, Ind., 1897. Kimmell & Herbert.

lines of investigation, and one which speaks strongly against the too frequent custom of basing broad generalizations on isolated and unverified observations.

**Food Plants of Scale Insects.** — Though sometimes misleading, lists of the host plants of parasitic fungi or of the food plants of vegetable-feeding insects are always helpful when properly used; and a list of the food plants of scale insects, by T. D. A. Cockerel, in volume xix of the *Proceedings of the United States National Museum*, will be acceptable to students of this group. The author states that it is to be understood that the plants given as hosts have been infested in many cases only since they have been cultivated, and suggests that it would be desirable to distinguish in every case between the endogenous and exogenous Coccids on a plant, and also between those exogenous in a state of nature and those only so in cultivation.

**Timber Pines.** — The timber pines of the Southern United States form the subject of an important contribution from the Division of Forestry of the Department of Agriculture.<sup>1</sup> Though a revised edition of an earlier series of monographs, the present publication appears with almost the value of a new work. In it *Pinus palustris*, *P. heterophylla*, *P. echinata*, *P. taeda*, and *P. glabra* are quite fully considered, from the standpoint of forestry and mechanics, as well as that of botany. To the teacher of economic botany such excellent illustrations as those of Plate VIII, showing the method of "turpentine orcharding in Louisiana," are next in value to an actual field demonstration.

T.

**New England Botanical Club.** — The New England Botanical Club, an association of gentlemen interested in the flora of New England, which holds monthly meetings in Boston and has begun the formation of a New England herbarium, has recently issued a tastefully prepared pamphlet containing its constitution, with a list of its officers and members. Thirty-seven resident and twenty-four non-resident members are enrolled.

**Botanical Garden in Dahlem.** — The plans for the new botanical garden in Dahlem, near Berlin, the distance of which from the teaching departments of the great Berlin University is lamented by

<sup>1</sup> *The Timber Pines of the Southern United States.* By Charles Mohr, Ph.D. Together with a discussion of the structure of their wood, by Filibert Roth. *Bulletin No. 13* (revised edition), *U. S. Department of Agriculture, Division of Forestry.* Washington, 1897. 176 pp., 27 pl., 4°.